

Greenway Committee Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2015

Committee members present: Rich Lee, Dr. John Ridout, Kim Williams, Mary Weber, Amy Vanden Heuvel, Forest Whitaker

Staff present: Mariate Echeverry, Lucy Crown

Call to order: 3:30

Motion to approve past meeting minutes: Kim, Forrest seconded, accepted unanimously

1. PUBLIC COMMENT 1:

- a. Brian Gulden, lawyer for Beaucatcher residents that additional costs of \$69,237 for Gurriere property and \$84,885 for Peterson segment should be included in estimate for reimbursement.

2. STAFF UPDATE (Lucy Crown):

- a. Duke has granted permission to enter land for engineering. Design phase will be done by end of September.
- b. (Mariate) Asheville in Motion Charette March 11-14th, different activities. Final presentation on Saturday, location TBD. Neighborhood meetings March 15th.

3. PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE (Roderick):

- a. Have been meeting with Beaucatcher community and considering alternatives to reduce right-of-way impact. Other alternatives were not feasible. Construction drawings should be finished today. February 26th will be presentation drop-in-meeting 2-7 at Public Works building.
- b. Mary: Will you be including mitigation/buffers to reduce impact on neighbors. Roderick: the consultant is doing that and will be presenting them on 26th.
- c. Mary: What is timeframe to bid? Roderick: Hopefully 2nd week of March, after staff comments. Construction beginning in fall.
- d. Azalea update: Bridge finished, working on walking paths. Master Plan being updated.
- e. Rich: What conversations after retreat to evaluate performance of parks? Roderick: A different way of evaluating return on investment, mostly meaning facilities like Nature Center, Golf Course, Tennis Center.
- f. Mary: What are plans for Falconhurst passive park? Roderick: Met with developer to learn how development will impact and protect conserved property, how to work hand-in-hand.
- g. Mary: Working on stormwater study, looking at infrastructure relating to stormwater and coming up with 10-year and 2-year CIP looking at bioretention, hoping to partner with Parks. Roderick: In conversation with McCrae Coates and Stormwater Dept. on Town Branch and Clingman Greenway.

4. RHODODENRON GREENWAY (Marcia and Brotherhug):

- a. Residents on Davenport would like access to Hominy Creek trail
- b. Kim: This is something we discussed at retreat.
- c. Mary and others: Is the armory property at the bottom of Davenport busy or parking-constrained? Answer: No

- d. Rich: This is something we could pursue as a pilot project of getting trails and walking accessibility open.
- 5. SMITH MILL CREEK GREENWAY (Kim):
 - a. Found-walk through study from 2011, not full feasibility study. Need to identify routes in advance of I-26 connector, how to connect to river greenways given topography. Eventual elevated I-26 could make it passable, challenges are a lot of business owners, difficulty near I-26/Patton interchange, needing land-use language.
 - b. Mary: Smith Mill Creek may require stream bank restoration through watershed study.
 - c. Rich: ADC did a study in addition to Parks and Rec study.
 - d. Any interest from the developer in supporting SMC Greenway? Kim: Possibly.
- 6. DISCUSSION OF REPLACING LUCY, hired by city (Mary):
 - a. Kim: I support staying at seven members for now. Amy: Let's see what skills we lack. Forrest: Let's look for skills and geographic diversity. Mary: Let's consider August, one year after Forrest joined committee.
 - b. Amy nominated Kim for Vice Chair, Forrest seconded, accepted unanimously.
- 7. DISCUSSION OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES (Rich):
 - a. Swannanoa Greenway segments, Reed Creek Connector, FBR West to Richmond Hill scored highest in unweighted averages.
 - b. Amy: Suggests Swannanoa should be submitted as one study. If rejected, should argue for sections.
 - c. Forrest: Let's not lose low-hanging fruit of lower-ranking projects.
 - d. Rich: This suggests that lower-scoring greenways should be considered for "goat trail" projects and community efforts.
 - e. Kim: Re Reed Creek Connector, per conversation with Roderick, Parks & Rec suggesting right-of-ways exist.
 - f. Rich moved that Swannanoa Greenway, Reed Creek Connector, and FBR/Richmond Hill be recommended for feasibility studies in 2016 Budget Process, in that order of priority. John seconded. Accepted unanimously.
- 8. PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING/FIELD TRIP (Mary):
 - a. Should walk Swannanoa Greenway, end at Highlands, walk Beverly Hills too if time allows. Try to find someone who knows the area (AI?) or bring in Oscar or Highlands representative.
 - b. Next meeting location: 1st floor conference room
- 9. COMMITTEE UPDATES
 - a. Multimodal (Jim): Annual report presented to council. Presentation from Kimerly Horn, Paul Black from MPO about STIP program, emphasized not to panic.
 - b. Outreach (Mary): FoCB has RFQ about branding out, Festival of Neighborhoods March 15th, Kim to attend, Rich to help with materials.
- 10. PUBLIC COMMENT:
 - a. Greta Bush on Swannanoa Greenway, from a safety standpoint for connection biking to work, very important.